ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

PERDUE HILL CHURCH, MONROE CO., ALA.,

Commencing August 16, 1893

OFFICERS:

REV. B. J. SKINNER, MODERATOR,.....Burnt Corn, Ala.
THOS. S. WIGGINS, CLERK,.....Monroeville, "

MONROEVILLE, ALA.:
THE MONROE JOURNAL PRINT,
1893.

HON. JNO. W. LESLIE.

HON. JOHN W. LESLIE.

With this number of the minutes is presented a cut, with a few sketches of his life, of Hon. Jno. W. Leslie, who has for more than twenty years been connected with this association, and for thirty years previously, with the Pine Barren Association.

He was born in 1814, in Pendleton District, S. C. He came to Monroe county in 1817, residing near Bell's Landing, on the Alabama river. In 1837, he joined the Fellowship Baptist Church in Wilcox county, and has been an active, useful member of the church in every community where he has resided.

In 1868, he was elected Probate Judge of Monroe county, which office he held until 1874. In 1882, he was appointed clerk of the circuit court; was elected to the same office in 1886, which he held until 1892. He has been Moderator of the association for a good many years and doubtless would have continued to be, but for his advanced age and declining health, on account of which, two years ago, he asked to be relieved from further service.

In the church, Sunday school and business he has always been faithful and prompt; valuable as a neighbor, useful as a citizen, and true as a friend.

A desire to express in some degree the appreciation of this body for his services in the past, and the estimation in which he is held by his acquaintances, prompts this notice, and the forbearance of his nature is looked to for pardon for this liberty.

MINUTES

The Seventy-seventh annual session of the Bethlehem Baptist Association met at Perdue Hill, Monroe County, Alabama, on Wednesday, August 16, 1893, at 10 o'clock A. M. The opening exercises was a prayer meeting specially invoking the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit during the session, at the conclusion of which Dr. A. W. McGaha preached an impressive sermon from Luke xv: 1, 2.

The Association was then called to order by Hon. J. W. Leslie, the Moderator, who, in a few brief remarks, thanked the Association for their confidence at previous sessions in calling him to preside as moderator, and on account of his advanced age and feeble health asked to be excused from further service as Moderator.

The Moderator then appointed as a committee on credentials, Rev. B. J. Skinner and brethren J P Watkins and W F Garrett.

The afternoon session was opened with prayer by Rev. R M Guy.

The committee on credentials reported as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Bethany—B J Skinner, J P Watkins, S D Nash.
Enon—A R Carter, W T Newberry.
Philadelphia—W T Nettles, C W McClure,
Pleasant—Ridge, Joseph Dees, George Roley,
Ramah—Letter, no Delegates,

SECOND DISTRICT.

Claiborne—R I Draughon, James Thames.
Hamilton Hill—J A Wiggins.
Pleasant Hill—J H Moore, M Stacey .
Monroeville—J W Leslie, T S Wiggins, T J Emmons.
Mt. Pleasant—A J Lambert.
Perdue Hill—W E Broughton, B F Carter.
Poplar Springs—Letter, no delegates.
Oak Grove—J E Hanks, J J Roley.
Salem—W J Newberry, W F Garrett, A King, Lewis S Fountain, L A Hendrix G K Fountain.
Zion—C R Hixon, H C Johnson, C C McWilliams, J C Faulkenberry.
Judson—L Wainright, H Wainright.

The following officers were then chosen to wit:

B J Skinner, Moderator, T J Emmons Treasurer and T S Wiggins Clerk.

Dr W B Crumpton was received as representative of the State Mission Board and the Judson Female Institute, and Dr A W McGaha as representative of the Howard College, Rev. R M Guy, also, as a visiting minister.

On motion T J Emmons was added to the committee on Sunday Schools.

The following committee was appointed on Woman's Work: W. E. Broughton, S. D. Nash and G. K. Fountain.

The report on ministerial education was read and is as follows:

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

An efficient ministry is essential to the prosperity of the church. Without it Zion can make no progress; with it difficulties vanish and obstacles remove. What constitutes the equipment of such a ministry is a matter regarding which there can be honest differences of opinion. A man without power is a failure anywhere and none the less so in the ministry of Christ. That the power of Christ's herald depends upon his classical or scientific acquirements, cannot successfully be maintained. Peter and Paul, quite unlike in natural ability, mental training and social position, were both efficient in the work of their common Master. Since their day perhaps, the greatest in ministerial service have not come from the schools. Yet none can deny the importance of thorough mental training as being of great advantage to the ministry. The failure of men educated by our boards are owing, not to the schools, but to themselves. Too much carefulness in bestowing our benefactions in this department of our work cannot, in our opinion, be exercised. There is danger in this work that is peculear to itself. But as some ships were broken upon the rocks before the beacons were placed to mark their position, so will experience, and that alone, enable us to so perfect our plans as to correct past and present errors. Our board is behind in its obligations and calling loudly and righteously for the redemption of the pledges made for ministerial education. Let us respond to the fullest of our obligations. B. J. SKINNER, Chairman.

On motion, the report was laid over until to-morrow for further consideration in connection with the report on denominational education.

The report on missions was read, on which an address was delivered by Dr. W. B. Crumpton, and on motion, the report was laid over for further consideration to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

The Finance Committee was appointed by the Moderator, viz: W. T. Nettles, L. Wainright and W. F. Garrett.

On Queries and Requests—R. I. Draughon Joseph Dees and J. A. Wiggins were appointed as a committee.

On motion. a committee consisting of A. J. Lambert, J. W. Leslie, L. Wainright, W. T. Newberry and J. E. Hanks, was appointed to confer with Dr. W. B. Crumpton, Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, in reference to the destitution of gospel preaching existing in some portions of the Association.

The committe on preaching reported that they had selected Dr. W. B. Crumpton to preach this evening at 8 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

The morning session was opened with appropriate exercises.

Elder H. G. B. Ray was received as a representative of the Elim Association, and Elder C. S. Ray as a visitor from the Chickasaha (Miss.) Association. Rev. H. C. Sanders was also received as a representative of the Conecuh Association.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Your committee deems it unnecessary to urge the importance of denominational education Our schools, Howard College at East Lake, and the Judson Institute at Marion, are doing well, considering the financial stringency. Dr. A. W. McGaha, a former student of Howard, and well acquainted with the management of the affairs of the college, has just been elected to the presidency of the former. The old faculty remains with him in the work. We commend the college as now organised to the continued patronage of our people. Dr. Averett, assisted by a full and competent corps of teachers, is prepared to educate all our girls at the Judson. This institution should have our full support. The Seminary at Louisville. Ky., is increasing each year in patronage. This school of the Prophets is the glory and pride of Southern Baptists. J. P Watkins, Ch'n.

Dr. McGaha delivered a forcible and highly interesting address on the report, and also on the subject of ministerial education, the report on which was submitted yesterday. Both reports were adopted.

A collection for ministerial education was taken up, amounting to $———

The report on Missions, submitted on yesterday, was taken up:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Missions began with the ministry of our Savior, and his command to his disciples was to carry it on, not simply until Jerusalem and Judea and all the tribes of Israel should hear of the wondrous grace of the new kingdom, but until every creature in all the world should hear the gospel of Christ. So, missions, that is, sending out the gospel, is no new thing, no innovation

upon the teachings of Christ himself, and the teachings and practices of the early disciples, but is in accordance with them, and must and will go on until all the kingdoms of the earth shall become subordinate to the great spiritual kingdom of the Messiah. Viewing the history of gospel missions for the past eighteen hundred years, its successes and failures, from a human standpoint, the trials it has encountered, and the obstacles so often thrown in its way, there is much that is gratifying in what it has accomplished. The growth of our foreign work, the increase in the number of stations and converts in China, Italy, Africa, Brazil, Mexico and other points, should indeed be encouraging. The work of the Home Board in Cuba alone, should be cause for rejoicing in all Christian hearts. In some portions of the State, our State Board has done much and we hope lasting good in assisting weak churches, organizing new ones and in supplying destitute sections with the gospel. Your committee, however, feels constrained to suggest at least that our immediate section, where much is needed to be done, has been neglected, and means of some kind should be adopted by this Association for our relief.

THOS. S. WIGGINS, Chairman.

The report was adopted and pledges from the churches were called for to aid in supplying the destitution, and the following pledges were made: Bethany, $25.00; Bellville, $25.00; Enon $5; Claiborne, $5; Perdue Hill, $10; Salem, $10; Monroeville, $25.00; Hamilton Hill, $5; Oak Grove, $5; Mt. Pleasant, $15; Pleasant Hill, $5.—Total $135.00.

After a recess of one and one half hours, on reassembling the Moderator appointed the following committees to report at the next session of the Association, to-wit:

On Missions—A. J. Lambert, L. A. Hendrix, James Thames.

On Ministerial Education—W T Nettles, S D Nash, Geo Roley

On Denominational Education—T. J, Emmons, J. H. Moore and Alex King.

On Temperance—W. B. Kemp, J. J. Roley and L. Wainright.

On Sabbath Schools—J. W. Leslie. C. W. McClure, W. T. Newberry.

Woman's Work—W A Locke, W E Broughton, L A Fountain.

The report on Temperance was read and after earnest discussion was adopted. It is as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee beg leave to report: There is no necessity to dwell upon the incalculable harm being done by the traffic in strong drink. It is well known to all men. Only a few years since, laws began to be enacted to prohibit its manufacture and sale. These laws have increased in popularity as the people be-

came acquainted with them, till now it is probable that two-thirds of the State is protected by such statutes. Every minister should lend his best efforts to the cultivation of public sentiment which will aid in the enforcement of such laws. The churches should maintain discipline and not allow drunkards or drunkard-makers to retain membership in them. Every lover of the cause of Christ and of his country should earnestly pray and labor for the good time to come when no man shall be found to put the bottle to his neighbor's lips. By earnest prayer and consecrated effort, this can be brought about.

C. C. McWILLIAMS, Chairman.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The following report was read, discussed and adopted.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools, from the best information they have been able to obtain, can not make an encouraging report as to the progress of this work, during the past year. The importance of this work has always been acknowledged and recognized by our association, and yet we have come to believe that few of our churches give it the attention it deserves. We find that as a rule, our churches do not consider it a part of the church work, but simply as a sort of independent ally. We think that if our older members, especially our deacons and pastors, would show more interest in it and look upon it, as we believe it is, a part of the church work, it would prosper beyond what it has ever done heretofore. J. C. FALKENBERRY, Ch'n.

The report on Woman's Work was read and adopted:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Your committee commend the efforts of our Christian women to advance the cause of our Master. We believe that good has resulted from the formation of societies among the churches of this Association. We think that much more good could be accomplished by the organization of a woman's society at every church in the Association. We would recommend that pastors encourage these organizations in the churches.

W. E. BROUGHTON, Chairman.

QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

The committee on queries and requests reported through its chairman, Dr. R. I. Draughon: No queries, but three requests; one from Zion church requesting that the next session of this body be held with that church, and a like request from Philadelphia church, and it recommended the Zion request. Also a request from the Claiborne church that the old time of the meetings of the Association be again adopted, viz: Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, which was also recommended.

The report was adopted.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That this body return thanks to this church and and the citizens of Perdue Hill for their earnest attention, their liberal and hospitable entertainment of delegates and visitors during the session. Also to our Methodist brethren for the use of their house of worship, and to the choir for their excellent music. That we commend the action of the Perdue Hill merchants in closing their stores during our meetings, as an example worthy of imitation.

TREASURER' REPORT.

To amount received in vouchers		$ 9974
To amount in cash, viz: Home Missions	$ 11 67⅔	
Foreign Missions	15 11⅔	
State Missions	14 46⅔	
Ministerial Education	39 30	
Bible Colportage fund	2 70	
For Minutes	19 60—	102 95
Total cansh and vouchers		$202 69
By amount vouchers	$ 99 74	
By amount to W B Crumpton	44 05	
By amount to A W McGaha	39 30	
By amount to Clerk for Minutes	19 60—	$202 69

THOS. J. EMMONS, Treasurer.

NOTE—Bellville church has since paid $2 to Clerk for minutes

Resolved that we recommend to our churches the Orphan's Home, established by the Baptist State Convention, and at present located at Evergreen. We also recommend that a committee on Orphanage be appointed as a standing committee.

Pursuant to this resolution, the Moderator appointed Rev. R. I. Draughon and brethren John P. Watkins and A. C. Hixon.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Zion church on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September 1894, at 11 A. M,

B. J. SKINNER, MODERATOR.

THOS. S. WIGGINS, CLERK.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions		Foreign Missions		State Missions		Minister'l educ't'n	Minutes..	Pastor's Salary	Centnnial fund	Value Ch. property
	Cash	V'chr	Cash	V'chr	Cash	V'chr	Cash			V'chr	
Bethany	....	...	1 00	...	....	5 00	5 00	2 00	$150	15	1000
Claiborne	....	....	....		...	....		1 25	....		400
Enon	....	....	...	....	2 00	80	....	1 00		2 75	....
Hamilton Hill	3 00	....	4 00	....	3 00	...	....	1 00	100	8 00	....
Judson	....	....	...		...	5 46		50	....	....	....
Monroeville*	.	1 01	....	1 29	....	9 14	6 75	3 00	150	....	1000
Mt Pleasant	4 00	..	4 00	...	4 00	...	....	....	94	17	...
Montg'm'y Hill	....	...	....	...	...	5 00	....	50	.	....	....
Philadelphia*	...	5 02	....	4 64	....	8 18	5 00	2 00	....	15	1000
Pleasant Ridge	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 00		....	....
Perdue Hill	....	....		....	....	....	10	1 00	150	....	...
Pleasant Hill	....	....	....	...	....	1 80	...	60	....	..	....
Oak Grove	....		...	...	.. .	...	..	75	....	....	....
Poplar Springs	....	....	....	....	....	..	-	50	. ..	..	....
Ramah	. ..	...	75	....	....	....	....	1 00	....	.. .	
Salem	....	....	70	...	70	....	...	1 50	....	1 35	....
Zion	231 2/3	...	231 2/3	....	231 2/3	...	5 00	2 00	...	8 30	....
Public collectn	2 45	...	2 45	....	2 45	....	8 55	-	8 30	-	. .
Total	11.76 2/3	$ 6 05	15 1 2/3	5 93	14 46 2/3	35 38	39 30	19 60		52 40	$3400

*For Bible Colp. Monroeville 56 cts, Philadelphia $2 14=$2.70.

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1893.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membrsh p last rep	Incrs by, Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Decr's by Letter	Exclusion	Death	Present membership	S S Officers&Teachers	Sunday SchoolPupils	Preaching Sabbath
Bethany	B. J. Skinner	J. P. Watkins	Burnt Corn, Ala.								46		42	
Claiborne.....	No pastor	J. D. Boykin	Perdue Hill, "	47						2	45			3
Enon	W. A. Locke,	L. R. Carter	Hollinger, "	35	1	3		3		1	39			
Hamilton Hill...	A. J. Lambert	L. A. Hixon	Claiborne, "	27				2		1	33			
Judson	No pastor	J. W. Fickling									27			
Monroeville.....	B. J. Skinner	John DeLoach	Monroeville, "			3		2		1	80	5	45	2
Mount Pleasant..	R. M. Guy,	T W Weatherford	Mt Pleasant. "								19			3
Montgomery Hill	No pastor	L. F. Warren	Montg'y Hill, "								52	3	25	
Oak Grove	W. A. Locke	Manning Stacey	Tekoa. "				2	2	6		47			3
Philadelphia.....	B. J. Skinner	J. D. Nettles	Kempville, "					1	1		102			3
Pleasant Ridge ..	W. A. Locke,	J. L. Smith	Monroeville, "	59	14	1		2			71			4
Pleasant Hill	W. A. Locke,	J. H. Moore	Perdue Hill, "				1	4		2	50			3
Poplar Springs...	No pastor	H. D. King,	Nero, "		4	2	1				36			
Perdue Hill.....	R. M. Guy	L. N Lambert	Perdue Hill, "	37		3		9			31	8	40	2
Salem	W. A. Locke,	L. S. Fountain	Perdue Hill, "	121	14	6		1			140	5	20	2
Zion	W. A. Locke,	C. C. McWilliams	Axle, "	128		4		4			128	8	34	1

NOTE.—Sunday School Superintendents: Bethany, Mrs J P Watkins; Monroeville, J W Leslie; Montgomery Hill T P Atkinson, Perdue Hill I D Roberts, Salem E H Atkinson, Zion H C Johnson